



Iowa Department of Human Services

Terry E. Branstad
Governor

Kim Reynolds
Lt. Governor

Charles M. Palmer
Director

June 1, 2016

The Honorable Sylvia Mathews Burwell
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201

Submitted Electronically

Re: Iowa Wellness Plan §1115 Demonstration Waiver Extension (Project #11-W-00289/5)

Madam Secretary,

I am pleased to submit the attached extension application for the Iowa Wellness Plan §1115 Demonstration Waiver. As you know, the Iowa Wellness Plan was implemented on January 1, 2014, to provide access to healthcare for uninsured, Iowans below 100% of the federal poverty level, while introducing new incentives around preventative health care to encourage individuals to focus on improving their health.

Since its inception, the Plan has significantly increased enrollment and has demonstrated success in meeting key State goals. Today, the Plan serves approximately 140,000 enrollees, providing healthcare coverage to an otherwise uninsured population. Enrollees have experienced enhanced access to care and positive outcomes on a variety of quality measures. Of note, when compared to low income Medicaid State Plan enrollees, waiver recipients have lower emergency department and prescription drug per member per month costs, higher rates of preventive care, and lower unmet need for non-emergency medical transportation.

The proposed extension will enable the State to continue these efforts utilizing a newly approved managed care delivery system, which is designed to deliver services in a highly coordinated manner and further improve health outcomes. Given Iowa's investment in the current Plan design, its demonstrated successes, and the desire to continue evaluating its unique components, the State is requesting an extension of current Special Terms and Conditions without change, and continuation of all waivers and expenditure authorities, including the non-emergency medical transportation waiver, which are set to expire December 31, 2016.

The State looks forward to continuing to work with its federal partners at the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to ensure that Iowa Wellness Plan enrollees continue to have access to high-quality local provider networks and modern benefits that work to improve health outcomes.

Please let me know if you have any questions with this submission.

Sincerely,

Mikki Stier, MSHA, FACHE
Medicaid Director

MS/js

Enclosures: Iowa Wellness Plan §1115 Demonstration Waiver Extension (Project #11-W-00289/5)
Application and Budget Neutrality Documentation

cc: Jennifer Kostasich, CMS Central Office
Megan Lepore, CMS Central Office
James G. Scott, CMS Region VII
Sandra Levels, CMS Region VII
Charles M. Palmer, Director, Iowa DHS
Deborah Johnson, IME
Julie Lovelady, IME
Deanna Jones, IME
Sabrina Johnson, IME